

October 20, 2009

Dear Principal,

We request your support and assistance with implementing the Ready Kindergarteners Survey. Monitoring Vermont's progress toward the outcome of "all children are ready for school" is a priority for both the Department of Education and the Agency of Human Services. The results of the survey are necessary for community planning and tracking Vermont's progress towards meeting its goal that "all children are ready for school."

We have attached a letter that we ask you to distribute to any classroom teacher who teaches kindergarteners in your school. This year, we will be asking teachers to complete the surveys electronically on Survey Monkey. The link to the survey is:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nLM_2bR5zKiTEPZGB5yD77Rw_3d_3d

Because of concerns raised by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) about protecting child level data online, we will not be asking teachers to provide any identifying information about themselves or their students; we only ask that they enter the Agency of Human Services (AHS) District in which your school is located. Therefore, this year the children's readiness data will only be reported in the aggregate at the state and AHS district levels.

We ask that teachers complete one survey for each child, and that they complete the surveys **no later than November 30**. We ask that you encourage your kindergarten teachers to complete the surveys in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Bob Costantino at the Department for Children and Families (phone: 241-3942 or e-mail: bob.costantino@ahs.state.vt.us).

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Dale, Commissioner
Department for Children & Families



Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Department of Education

October 20, 2009

Dear Kindergarten or Multiage Teacher,

We request your support and assistance with the **Ready Kindergarteners Survey**. Monitoring Vermont's progress toward the outcome "all children are ready for school" is a priority shared by both the Department of Education and the Agency of Human Services. The results of the survey inform school and community planning and legislative initiatives.

The concept "ready for school" includes children's competence in key domains: social-emotional development, approaches to learning, communication, cognitive development, and physical development and health. Information reported by teachers in the Ready Kindergarteners Survey will be collected and analyzed in order to report on children's group performance.

This year we will be asking you to complete the surveys electronically using Survey Monkey. Because of concerns raised by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) about protecting child level data online, we will not be asking you to provide any identifying information about yourself or your students; we only ask that you enter the Agency of Human Services (AHS) District in which your school is located. Therefore, this year the children's readiness data will only be reported in the aggregate at the state and AHS district levels.

To obtain an accurate picture of your students' readiness for kindergarten, we ask that every teacher complete one survey for each child in her or his kindergarten class. You will be able to complete the "Ready Kindergarteners Survey" at the following web address:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nLM_2bR5zKiTEPZGB5yD77Rw_3d_3d

All surveys need to be completed by **November 30**.

It is because of the efforts of kindergarten teachers like you from across the state that we are able to produce these reports on the school readiness of our young children. Thank you for your continued assistance and support in gathering these data.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Bob Costantino at the Department for Children and Families (phone 241-3942 or e-mail: bob.costantino@ahs.state.vt.us).

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Dale, Commissioner
Department for Children & Families



Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Department of Education